

TOP SECRET

31 DECEMBER 1964
PAGE 8 OF 8
COPY 2 OF 7

25
WA
WB
RS

POTALA

LHASA, TIBET

2939N 09106E

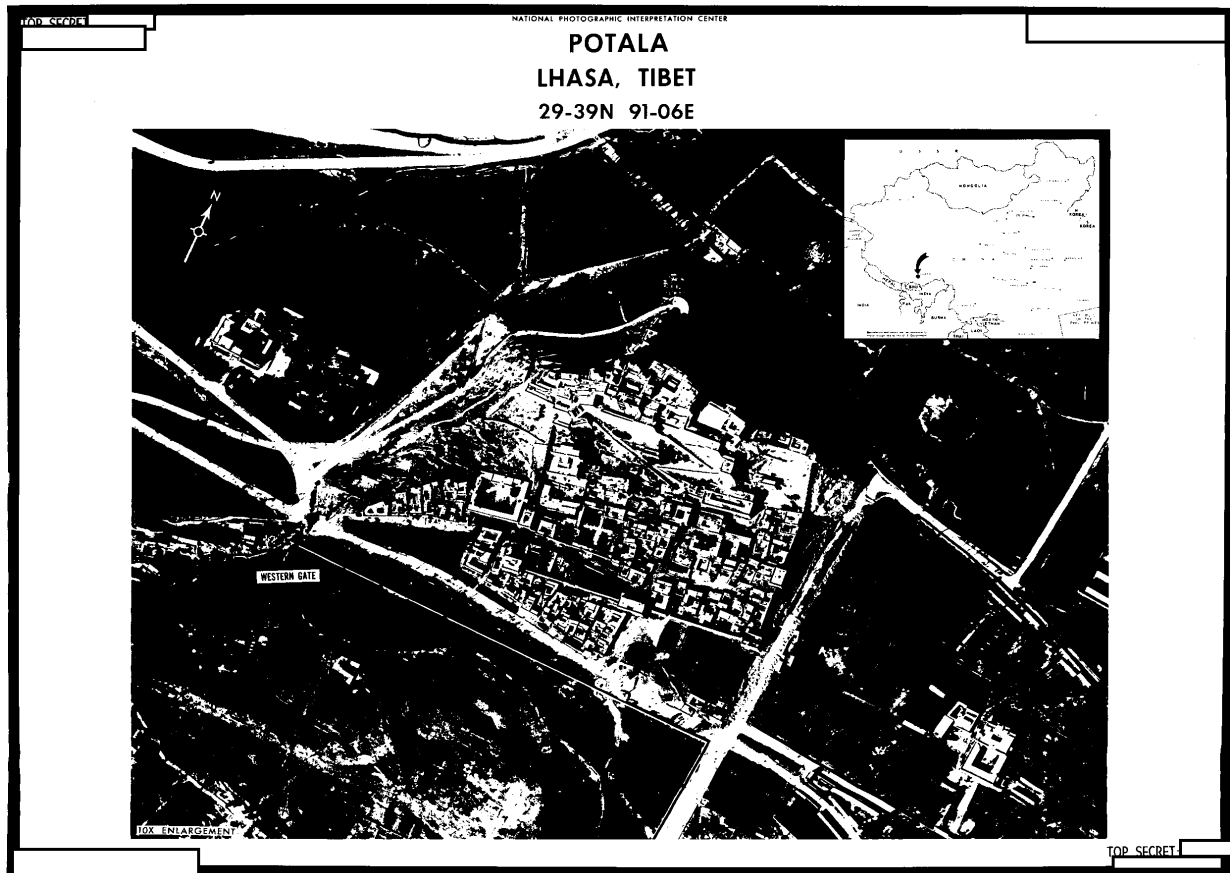
1- THE LHASA POTALA SERVED AS THE WINTER PALACE OF THE DALAI LAMA UNTIL MARCH 1959, WHEN HE FLED FROM THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS AND SOUGHT ASYLUM IN INDIA. THE POTALA IS LOCATED ON TOP OF AN ISOLATED, STEEP-SLOPED HILL IN THE WESTERN PART OF LHASA. IT WAS BUILT NEAR THE END OF THE 17TH CENTURY ON THE SITE OF AN EARLIER PALACE WHICH HAD BEEN DESTROYED. THE POTALA IS A 13-STORY STRUCTURE, 440 FEET HIGH AND 900 FEET LONG. FROM THE BASE OF THE HILL, THE POTALA IS NINE HUNDRED FEET HIGH, MAKING IT TWO THIRDS THE HEIGHT OF THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING. MOST OF THE WALLS ARE WHITEWASHED, BUT THEY ARE COLORED CRIMSON IN THE UPPER CENTRAL STORIES WHERE THE CHAPELS ARE LOCATED. FROM ITS MAJESTIC HEIGHT THE POTALA DOMINATES THE ENTIRE CITY OF LHASA.

PREPARED BY: CSD/NPIC

DISTRIBUTION:

- COPY 1 - Director/NPIC
- 2 - Asst for Ops
- 3 - Chief, REF/CSD
- 4 - DIA
- 5 - PID
- 6 - NSB/RE/CSD
- 7 - Chief, RAS/CSD

TOP SECRET



25X
25X

25X
25X

CSD/REF/RAS

REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IN
WHOLE OR IN PART IS PROHIBITED
EXCEPT WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE
OFFICE OF ORIGIN.